

REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 14-27 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented by the instant Preliminary Amendment. All prior (original) claims have been cancelled. Claim 14 is the single claim presented in independent form.

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/DE2004/001152, filed (no later than) June 7, 2004, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of a corresponding German patent application, filed June 3, 2003. Applicants' German patent associate has advised that the German priority claim has yet to be accepted, but attempts to properly claim priority remain ongoing.

By the present amendments, prior Claims 1-13 (of the accompanying *Literal English Translation of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/DE2004/001152*) have been cancelled and substituted by new Claims 14-27, which have been drafted in conformance with U.S. claim practice.

The Specification has been amended to add U.S. sectional headings, as appropriate.

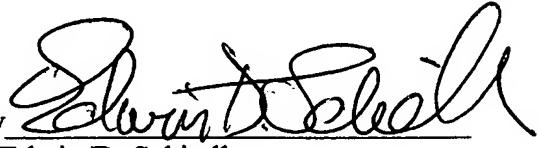
A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure, on a separate sheet of paper, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), is also enclosed.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore,  
respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ERWIN FERTIG/THOMAS CORD

By   
Edwin D. Schindler  
Edwin D. Schindler  
*Attorney for Applicants*  
Reg. No. 31,459

Five Hirsch Avenue  
P. O. Box 966  
Coram, New York 11727-0966

(631)474-5373

January 5, 2006

Enc.: Abstract of the Disclosure